



The Hope School of Ministry

Course Instruction Plan

Heart of the Old Testament: Key Ideas in OT Theology

March 13-May 8, 2004



Instructor

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B2-201 Heart of the Old Testament

Saturdays: 8:00-10:30am
Dates: March 13-May 8, 2004
Credit Hours: Two credits
Department: Biblical Studies

Course Instruction Plan

Heart of the Old Testament

1 Course Description and Objectives

The richness of the Hebrew Scriptures is easily proven in how both Christ and the apostles quoted, taught, and revered its deep theological message, and its wonderful heritage of God's love for his people. This course is designed to highlight some of the major theological themes associated with the Old Testament, aiming to get at its spiritual core and center through selected themes. These include monotheism, sovereignty, election, covenant, theocracy, law, sacrifices, faith, and redemption. Our central task will be to see how an understanding of these themes may enhance our reflection on the meaning of the Old Testament, help us appreciate God's kingdom work through history, as well as come to a better understanding of how the Old Testament gives witness to the fulfillment of Christ and his Kingdom today.

As a result of taking this course, each student should be able to:

- Memorize and explain key Scriptures related to the central themes discussed and articulated in the stories and substance of the Old Testament
- Explain key elements of the major themes covered in the course materials
- Appreciate the depth, brilliance, and theological richness of the Old Testament, especially as it precedes and grounds the New Testament message of grace and the Kingdom
- Articulate the central theological themes of the Old Testament
- Perceive with greater clarity the practical, spiritual value of the Old Testament in both personal growth as well as spiritual mission

2 Books and Materials

- Bible (for the purposes of this course, your Bible should be a translation [ex. NIV, NASB, RSV, KJV, NKJV, etc], and not a paraphrase [ex. The Living Bible, The Message]).
- Youngblood. *The Heart of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Selected readings (to be handed out in class)
- Three-ring binder (1") and at least one 3-hole punched pocket folder
- Paper and pen for taking notes and completing in-class assignments

3 Course Requirements

Summary of Grade Categories and Weights

Attendance and Class Participation	10 %	30 pts
Quizzes	15 %	45 pts
Memory Verses	15 %	45 pts
Exegetical Project	20 %	60 pts
Ministry Project	10 %	30 pts
Required Text Reading and Summary	10 %	30 pts
Final Exam	20 %	<u>60 pts</u>
<i>Total Points Possible</i>		300 pts

Grade Requirements

Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance at each class session is a course requirement. Absences will affect your grade. If an absence cannot be avoided, please let the Instructor know in advance. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out the assignments you missed, and to talk with the Instructor about turning in late work. Much of the learning associated with this course takes place through discussion. Therefore, your active involvement will be sought and expected in every class session.

Quizzes

Every class will begin with a short quiz over the basic ideas from the last lesson. The best way to prepare for the quiz is to review the Student Workbook material and class notes taken during the last lesson.

Memory Verses

The memorized Word is a central priority for your life and ministry as a believer and leader in the Church of Jesus Christ. There are relatively few verses, but they are significant in their content. Each class session you will be expected to recite (orally or in writing) the assigned verses to your Instructor.

Exegetical Project

The Scriptures are God’s potent instrument to equip the man or woman of God for every work of ministry he calls them to (2 Tim. 3.16-17). In order to complete the requirements for this course you must select a passage and do an inductive Bible study (i.e., an exegetical study) upon it. The study will have to be 5 pages in length (double-spaced, typed, or neatly handwritten) and deal with [topic you are covering in this class] which we will analyze in this course. Our desire and hope is that you will be deeply convinced of the Scripture’s ability to change and practically affect your life, and the lives of those to whom you minister. As you go through the course, be open to finding an extended passage (roughly 4-9 verses) on a subject you would like to study more intensely. Your Instructor will cover the details of this project with you. *The details of the project are listed on pages 7-8 of this syllabus.*

Ministry Project

Our expectation is that all students will apply their learning practically in their lives and in their ministry responsibilities. The student will be responsible for developing a ministry project that combines principles learned with practical ministry. We will discuss the details of this project in the introductory session of the class. *The details of the project are listed on page 9 of this syllabus.*

Classwork/Homework Assignments

Classwork and homework of various types may be given during class by your Instructor. If you have any question about what is required by these or when they are due, please ask your Instructor.

Required Reading and Precis Assignment

All students are required to purchase, read, and reflect upon the textbook(s) for this course. We will ask you to read each required textbook and write a precis of its main point, as you see it. You will need to summarize each text's major theme and argument, and then give as clearly and concisely as possible your evaluation of it. *Your work for this assignment will differ depending on how many credits you hope to receive for this course. Page 11 of this syllabus explains this assignment in greater detail.*

4 Final Exam

On the last day of class you will receive a final exam. You will be asked questions that help you reflect on what you have learned in the course and how it affects the way you think about or practice ministry. Please review your quizzes and class notes to prepare for this exam.

Grading

The following grades will be given in this class at the end of the session, and placed on each student’s record:

- “A” - Superior work
- “B” - Excellent work
- “C” - Satisfactory work
- “D” - Passing work
- “F” - Unsatisfactory work
- “I” - Incomplete

Letter grades with appropriate pluses and minuses will be given for each final grade, and grade points for your grade will be factored into your overall grade point average. Unexcused late work or failure to turn in assignments will affect your grade, so please plan ahead, and communicate conflicts with your instructor.

Course Credits

With any course we offer (with the exception of the Capstone Curriculum) you have the opportunity to increase (or decrease) the number of credits you earn for each course you take by successfully completing the course requirements for the amount of credits you desire to achieve (see chart below):

Credit Hours Earned	Required Assignments for Course and Workshop Credit
1 Credit	Registration; Attendance; Memory Verses; Book Precis - 1 Page
2 Credits	Registration; Attendance; Memory Verses; Ministry Project; Final Exam; 5-Page Paper; Book Precis - 2 Pages
3 Credits	Registration; Attendance; Memory Verses; Final Exam; 8-Page Paper; Ministry Project; Book Precis - 4 Pages

Please note: The student is required to register the number of credits they desire to take on or before the first day of class. The student's grade (for their work) will be calculated based on what they registered for at the beginning of class.

5 Course Schedule and Contents

Date	Topic and Assignments
Mar 13	Introduction: The Centrality of the OT in God’s Revelation and Plan
Mar 20	<p>Monotheism: The Lord our God is One</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Isaiah 45</p> <p>Memory Passage: Isa. 45.22; Deut. 6.4-6; Ps. 135.6</p> <p>Readings: Youngblood, <i>Heart of OT</i>, pp. 7-18</p>
Mar 27	<p>Sovereignty and Election: The Kingdom of the Lord God</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Deut. 6-10</p> <p>Readings: Youngblood, <i>Heart of OT</i>, pp. 19-38</p>
Apr 3	<p>Covenant: The Unfailing Promise of the Sovereign God</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Exodus 19-25</p> <p>Memory Passage: Ex. 19.5-6; Dan. 4.35; Ps. 103.17-18</p> <p>Readings: Youngblood, <i>Heart of OT</i>, pp. 39-58</p>
Apr 10	<p>Theocracy: The Reign of God in the Midst of His Covenant Community</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Isaiah 45</p> <p>Readings: Youngblood, <i>Heart of OT</i>, pp. 59-68</p> <p>Assignment: Exegetical Study Project Topic Due</p>
Apr 17	<p>Law and Sacrifice: The Culture of Yahweh’s People</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Isaiah 45</p> <p>Memory Passage: Prov. 3.5-6; Hab. 2.4; Isa. 44.22</p> <p>Readings: Youngblood, <i>Heart of OT</i>, pp. 70-90</p> <p>Assignment: Written Ministry Project Proposals Due</p>
Apr 24	<p>Faith and Redemption: The Salvation of the Sovereign God</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Isaiah 45</p> <p>Readings: Youngblood, <i>Heart of OT</i>, pp. 91-110</p> <p>Assignment: Exegetical Project Due</p>
May 1	<p>Conclusion and Final Exam</p> <p>Assignment: Ministry Project Due</p>

Exegetical Project

Heart of the Old Testament

Purpose

This assignment represents a key part of your participation in this Heart of the Old Testament course of study. In order to fulfill this requirement, you must *select a passage of Scripture*, and do *an inductive study (exegesis)* on the text. You may choose any one of the following Scripture texts:

- Key passage in course, 4-6 verses in length
- Key passage in course, 4-6 verses in length
- Key passage in course, 4-6 verses in length

The purpose of this project is to give you an opportunity to do a detailed study of a major passage on the subject of [key idea or thought from your course]. Perhaps nothing is more important for a Christian leader than their ability to make plain the meaning of Scripture, and relate it to the real life concerns of people today. The aim is for you to not only make clear the meaning of the passage, but also relate the meaning of the passage directly to your own personal walk of discipleship, and to those whom God has called you to minister to in and through your church or ministry.

Outline and Composition

In order to *exegete a Bible text*, you must be committed to discover what the passage meant first in its own setting. Once you know what a text *meant*, you can know what it *means to us*, drawing out principles that apply to all of us, and relating those principles to our lives today. Three simple questions will guide you as you explore the Bible passage for its truths and insights:

1. What was *God saying to the people in the text's original situation*?
2. What principle(s) does *the text teach that is true for all people everywhere*, including today?
3. What is *the Holy Spirit asking me to do with this principle here, today*, in my life and ministry?

Here is a sample outline for your paper:

1. List out what you believe is *the main theme or idea* of the text you selected.
2. *Summarize the meaning* of the passage (you may do this in two or three paragraphs, or if you prefer, by writing a short verse-by-verse commentary on the passage).
3. *Outline one to three key principles or insights* this text provides on the subject of [key topic of study in this course] and its role and function in the Christian community.

4. Tell how one, some, or all of the principles may relate to *one or more* of the following:
 - a. Your personal spirituality and walk with Christ
 - b. Your life and ministry in your local church
 - c. Situations or challenges in your community and general society

As an aid or guide, please feel free to read the course texts and/or commentaries, and integrate insights from them into your work. (Of course, make sure that you give credit to whom credit is due if you borrow or build upon someone else's insights. Use in-the-text references, footnotes, or endnotes. Any way you choose to cite your references will be acceptable, as long as you 1] use only one way consistently throughout your paper, and 2] indicate where you are using someone else's ideas, and are giving them credit for it.)

Make certain that your exegetical project, when turned in, meets the following standards:

- It is legibly written or typed
- It is a study of one of the passages above
- It is turned in on time (not late)
- It is 5 pages in length (for two credits)
- It is 8 pages in length (for three credits)
- It follows a clear, simple outline easy for the reader to follow
- It shows how the passage relates to life and ministry today
- Please note: I am not looking for either filler or super-wide margins in this project. Carefully follow each step of the outline and you will have plenty of insight, and therefore you will have plenty to write!

Do not let these instructions intimidate you; this is a Bible study project! All you need to show in this paper is that you *studied* the passage, *summarized* its meaning, *drew out* a few key principles from it, and *have related* them to your own life and ministry.

Grading

The exegetical project will be worth 60 points, and represents 20% of your overall grade, so make certain that you make your project an excellent and informative study of the Word.

Ministry Project

Heart of the Old Testament

Purpose

The Word of God is living and active, and penetrates to the very heart of our lives and innermost thoughts (Heb. 4.12). James the Apostle emphasizes the need to be doers of the Word of God, not hearers only, deceiving ourselves. We are exhorted to apply the Word, to obey it. Neglecting the invaluable discipline of obedience to the Word of God, James suggests, is analogous to a person who views his natural face in a mirror and then forgets his identity: who he is, what he is meant to do, and how he was meant to live. In every case, the doer of the Word of God will be blessed in what he or she does (James 1.22-25).

Our sincere desire is that you will practically apply your learning, matching and correlating your learning with the very real experiences and needs in your personal life, and your ministry in and through your church. *Therefore, a key part of completing this module will be for you to design a ministry project to help you share some of the insights you have learned from this course with others.*

Planning and Summary

The focus here is on applying and sharing your insights with others. Many ways exist which allow you to fulfill this requirement. Choose a place where you can concisely and clearly share your insights of the course. For instance, you may choose to:

- Conduct a brief study of your insights with an individual
- Share during a devotional in your Sunday School class, youth group, or adult Bible study
- Share during a sermon or ministry event
- Dialogue with a friend, coworker, or neighbor using your course insights

Whatever lessons you determine to share with other, or wherever you decide to share them, the goal for this assignment will be the same for everyone: I want you to take time to share the insights you received in this course with others in order that they can glean from your knowledge, and you can interact with others on what you have learned.

Moreover, focus your sharing and discussion on the very specific insights that you have gleaned from our study together, not just on what was covered by the instructor. If at all possible, ask your audience for feedback and if you can seek to dialogue with them about your presentation, whether it is an audience of one or before a large group. Furthermore, please feel free if you like to share insights also from your Exegetical Project in place of or in addition to your other concepts.

Above all, make certain that you allow yourself some flexibility in the fulfillment of your project. Make it creative and open-ended. You should decide where you want to share your insights and plan ahead and avoid the last minute rush in selecting and carrying out your project.

After you have carried out your plan, write a one-page summary or evaluation (full page, double-spaced) of your time of sharing, and give it to your Mentor. A *sample outline* of your Ministry Project summary is as follows:

- Your name
- The place where you shared, and the audience with whom you shared
- A brief summary of how your time went, how you felt, and how they responded
- What you learned from the time

Grading

The Ministry Project will be worth 30 points, and will represent 10% of your overall grade, so make certain to share your insights with confidence, and make your summary clear.

Reading and Precis Assignment

Heart of the Old Testament

Purpose

A critical part of your own leadership development is the ability to engage the ideas and claims of others respectfully, to read what they have written, and restate their position clearly, whether or not you believe it. Only when you understand and restate their argument are you in a position to evaluate its truth value. You must strive to understand before you seek to judge.

Please note: *Your work for this assignment will differ depending on how many credits you hope to receive for this course.*

For instance, if you are taking the course for *1 credit*, you will need to write a half-page summary of the meaning of the text, and an additional half page giving your reaction to its content. For those taking this course for *2 credits*, you will need to write a page summarizing the key principles of the text, and a page highlighting your reaction to these principles. Finally, if you are taking the course for *3 credits*, you will need to summarize the arguments of the book in two pages and write out your own detailed analysis of the key principles (to you) in an additional two pages. The following chart will help you understand the different weights of assignment:

1. Course for 1 Credit: 1 page total (half-page summary, half-page response)
2. Course for 2 Credits: 2 pages total (one-page summary, one-page response)
3. Course for 3 Credits: 4 pages total (two-page summary, two-page response)

Outline and Composition

Whatever your credit level for this workshop, your precis (summary and reaction paper) should be legibly handwritten or typed, double-spaced. Follow the guidelines given below, especially paying attention to include both your understanding of the author's argument as well as your own careful analysis of the argument's worth.

Your summary ought to be divided into three sections:

1. List the general bibliographical information (title, author, publisher, date published).
2. As best as you can, outline the book's thesis and a few key supporting points of its argument. In other words, answer the question: *What is this book about, and what is the author trying to say?* Write out what you believe the author's main point is, along with any key supporting sub-points you think should be included. This ought to represent half of your entire precis, and be presented in a logical and organized fashion. Basically, please show that you understand the author's main point, and then how he/she backed up what they were saying (supporting subpoints).

3. Finally, the second half of your precis should reflect upon what the author said. Now that you have identified the main point (these) and various supporting points, tell me what you think about it. Did the author support the argument with good, relevant evidence? Was it logically presented? Was it persuasive in its content? How does this thesis line up with your own personal walk and ministry? Use these and other questions to react to the validity and usefulness of the book.